for payment of arrear wages is in progress. Modalities for payment of pension are being worked out. Implementation of various welfare measures such as, construction of houses, town administration, improved medical facilities, water supply etc., is a continuing process.

[English]

Accident at Nutandanga Colliery

2122. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any accident has occurred at Nutandanga Colliery of Pandaveswar area of Eastern Coalfields Limited on 25 September, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cause of the accident;

(c) the number of persons killed in the accident and the details of relief provided to the dependents of the victims;

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for the accident; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In the early hours of 24.9.1996, three minors entered the mixing chamber of abandoned stowing bunker of Nutandanga colliery of Pandabeswar area of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and died due to deficiency of oxygen in the atmosphere of the mixing chamber.

An enquiry into the accident was conducted by the Internal Safety Organisation of the coal company which revealed that the fencing provided with iron girder at the particular place was found broken. The Agent and the Manager of the Colliery have been issued show cause notices.

Each family of the deceased has been paid Rs. 10,000/- as immediate relief.

(e) The following steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents :

(1) Rechecking of the abandoned pits/inclines and other abandoned dangerous mine entries.

(2) Drawing up of time bound action plan for filling and/or plugging up of the disused/ abandoned entries to prevent inadvertent entry.

(3) Apart from statutory inspection, the effectiveness of the system is monitored by a Task Force.

[Translation]

Direct Foreign Investment

2123. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of total permissible investment proposals of direct investment only 30 percent have been implemented after initiating liberalisation process in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). As against total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals amounting to Rs. 76261 crores (excluding Euro Issues) between 1991 to 1996 (Upto September) the actual foreign direct investment inflow is Rs. 18151 crores (Upto Sept. 96) This indicates an approval: inflow ratio of roughly 4:1. However, gestation period of projects vary and mega-projects (Power, Refinery etc.) take much longer time. Excluding Mega projects (which involve nearly 50% of FDI approved) the approval: inflow ratio would be about 2:1. Inflow is showing an ever-increasing trend in as much as it has increased from Rs. 351 crores in 1991 to Rs. 675 crores during 1992, Rs. 1787 crores during 1993, Rs. 2982 crores during 1994, Rs. 6370 crores during 1995 and Rs. 5985 crores during 1996 (i.e. upto Sept., 96). The inflow of Rs. 6370 crores during 1995, is more than the total FDI inflows during the last 4 years. This trend indicates that foreign equity inflows have picked up.

(c) Government constantly reviews the investment policy so as to make it increasingly competitive and investor friendly. In addition, the Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. For promoting investment and attracting entrepreneurs to backward areas, the State Governments are offering variety of incentives such as Capital Subsidy, Sales Tax exemption, Power subsidy, allotment of Land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Regarding monitoring of implementation of projects, actual inflow of foreign direct investment is monitored by Reserve Bank of India. Implementation details of foreign investment projects are not centrally maintained.

Monitoring of the projects is to be primarily done by the State Governments since commissioning of most projects depends upon various state level clearances including land, power etc. However, efforts have been made by this Department from time to time, to determine the status of implementation of foreign investment projects, like letters addressed to large number of approval holders for obtaining feed-back, through the concerned Administrative Ministries etc. Further various